

every step of the way, Iraq will have a steady friend in the American people.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and long live a free Iraq.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. in the theater at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Mayor Michael A. Guido of Dearborn; G. Richard Wagoner, Jr., president and chief executive officer, General Motors Corp.; William Clay Ford, Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer, Ford Motor Co.; Dieter Zetsche, president and chief executive officer, Chrysler Group; and Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, USA (Ret.), Director, Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for Post-war Iraq, Department of Defense. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Edward Gaylord

April 28, 2003

Edward Gaylord was a shining example of generosity, patriotism, and dedication to helping others. As a business leader with a distinguished career in journalism, he spent a lifetime in selfless service to his community and State. I was honored to have Ed as a partner in the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. He was an excellent partner and a fine man. Laura joins me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Ed's family and friends.

Remarks on the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative

April 29, 2003

Thank you all very much for the warm welcome. Welcome to the people's house, the White House. It's my honor to welcome Members of the United States Senate and the United States Congress, members from the ambassadorial corps, and fellow Americans who deeply care about a neighbor in need.

HIV/AIDS is a tragedy for millions of men, women, and children, and a threat to stability of entire countries and of regions of our world. Our nations have the ability and,

therefore, the duty to confront this grave public health crisis.

We are here today to urge both Houses of the United States Congress to pass the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which will dramatically expand our fight against AIDS across this globe.

I appreciate so very much Secretary of State Colin Powell's commitment to this issue. The fight against AIDS is an integral of our Nation's foreign policy. I appreciate so very much Secretary Tommy Thompson's dedication to this issue, as the chairman of the Global Fund. He knows this administration's passion about doing our duty. And I want to thank these members of my Cabinet for being here today.

I also want to thank the chairman and the ranking members of the committees responsible for getting this legislation moving. Senator Lugar and Senator Biden both committed to this legislation, both working closely with our administration to get a good bill out of the Senate. And Senator Hyde and Senator Lantos have been at work already, and I appreciate their leadership as well. We're honored to have you here, and we're honored to have the other Members of the Congress with us today who care deeply about this issue.

I also want to thank Tony Fauci. He works for the NIH. He is on the leading edge of finding the vaccines that will help those who suffer from AIDS. I love Tony's commitment to humans, to what's best for mankind. I'm glad you're here, Tony.

I also want to thank Joe O'Neill, as the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy. He works closely in my administration. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel.

I want to thank Gaddi Vasquez, who's the Director of the Peace Corps, who is here. We just came from a roundtable discussion, and somebody came up with the idea, as this initiative goes forward and we get a good piece of legislation out of Congress, and when I sign it, hopefully before Memorial Day, one of the things we may want to do is to convert some of our Peace Corps to helping people in Africa who have got AIDS. So Gaddi, I want you to think carefully about that idea.